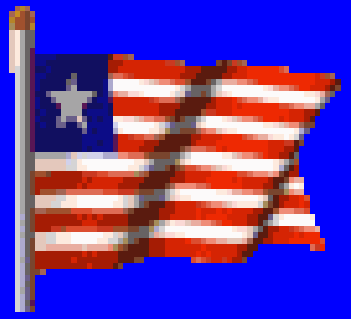
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



LIBERIA

(Republic of Liberia)

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Liberia

Capital: Monrovia

Population: 2,923,725 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: Pres Charles Taylo

Official language(s) English, Tribal

Economy: No working economy due to civil war

Religions: Traditional (70%), Islam (20%), Chritian (10%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None.

INFORMATION

International Airport: Monrovia

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: 111 United Nations Drive, Monrovia
Tel: 231-226370/ext 241/242 FAX: 231-226148

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor.

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: A valid passport with visa is required for all visitors, regardless of type of passports. Airport visas can no longer be obtained. Individuals arriving without a valid visa may be denied entry and deported. Military personnel on leave require passports and visas. Country clearance is required for all personnel in leave status. Due to civil conflict, routine leave requests will be disapproved. Airport officials require four copies of the aircraft general declaration of health. All non-Liberian nationals departing Liberia to foreign destinations will be assessed $30 US dollar airport-seaport

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.

Duty-free entry for personal effects:

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against travel to Liberia due to the unstable security situation. Tourism facilities are poor or, in many cases, nonexistent. Lodging, water, electricity, fuel, transportation, telephone, and postal services continue to be unreliable in Monrovia. Such services are nonexistent or severely limited in rural areas. Mail delivery is erratic. DoS recommends travelers not carry or use cameras. Do not photograph military installations, government buildings, or individuals in official military or government uniforms. Permit is required for firearms. Road travel can be hazardous. Cars, trucks, and taxis are frequently overloaded with people and goods and make frequent stops without signaling. Many vehicles operate with threadbare tires and blowouts are common. There is only one traffic light in the country; therefore, intersections should be approached with caution. There are also no public streetlights; pedestrians in Monrovia's streets and those walking on country roads are difficult to see at night. Drivers USDAO duty hours are 0800-1700L, Monday thru Friday.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: The US dollar is legal currency in all denominations up to $20 bills; higher denominations are not legal. There are no exchange facilities; several banks in Monrovia will convert reasonable amounts of US currency into various third country currencies. .

Rate: Approximate: .42 Liberian dollars for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, and heat injuries

Availability of medical services: Poor. Medical facilities are poor. Hospitals have been looted and are barely able to provide services. Medicines are scarce in most areas.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Liberia. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor

Health Precautions: Normal US standards of disease eradication are not maintained and exposure to common and exotic diseases is a definite possibility. Malaria prophylaxis is required. Yellow fever vaccination required of all travelers over one year of age. Visitors must have a valid "International Certificates of Vaccination" card upon arrival. Liberia is

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, typhoid, MMR, yellow fever, influenza, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Liberia. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Travelers may encounter roadblocks set up by military authorities when traveling anywhere within Liberia (including Monrovia). Luggage and vehicle searches are common and travelers should be prepared for delays at these points. Recommend notify local authorities before entering interior. As of June 93, most areas of interior are off-limits to US government personnel due to continuing conflict. The 0200L to 0600L curfew is strictly enforced. Violators may be apprehended and subjected to harsh treatment. Drinking water should be boiled for 20 minutes and filtered. The presence of many ill-trained and armed government security personnel, however, could constitute a potential danger. In addition, the northwestern part of the country is unsettled as

CRIME

Criminal Activities: The ability of Liberia's security forces to maintain law and order in the countryside is open to question, and travelers should check with the U.S. Embassy Consular Section or Security Office before undertaking travel outside Monrovia. U.S. Government employees require special Embassy authorization to travel outside the greater Monrovia area. Travelers are advised to avoid northwest Liberia as continued instability and strife in southeastern Sierra Leone heighten government sensitivity about security in the border area. Monrovia's crime rate is high. Theft and assault are major problems and occur more frequently after dark. Foreigners, including U.S. citizens, have been targets of street crime and robbery. Residential armed break-ins are common. The police are ill-equipped and largely incapable of providing effective protection.

Liberia is strict on: Firearms.
immediately to local police and to the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate.

WEATHER

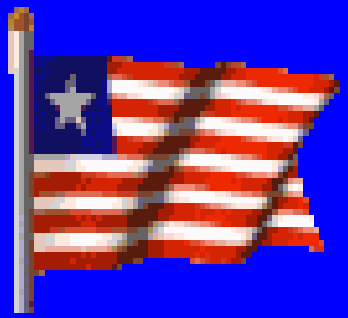
http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Lightweight civilian clothing and rainwear are advisable.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



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